

“It Could Be Worse”

Luke 12:13-21

“Teach me to number my days so that I may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalms 90:12

Principle: Our problem isn’t just that we want more. We are not just physical stuff; we are spiritual beings. And our deepest hunger is spiritual.

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.” James 4:13

Two reasons we should not presume about the future:

1. Life is unpredictable
2. Life is brief

“Come, each one cries....let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better!” Isaiah 56:12

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” Philippians 4:11, 12

“IT COULD BE WORSE”

Principle: It is not that treasures are bad. It is just that they won’t last.

“I thought in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. “Laughter,” I said, “is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?” I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;

I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my work,
and this was the reward for all my labor.

Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.” Proverbs 27:1

“So don’t be anxious about tomorrow – God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.” Matthew 6:34